

Introduction to the 2008 General Election Voters' Pamphlet

It's your choice ... it's your voice!

This is truly an exciting time to be a voter in Washington State. Our 2008 General Election marks the first time since 1952 with no incumbents in the race for the White House, and we in Washington will choose statewide elected leaders and the members of Congress, legislators, judges and local officials who will lead us during this pivotal moment in our history. You will play a central role in deciding our future.

We have just concluded our first use of the voter-approved Top 2 Primary that produced the slate of candidates you see on these pages. Voters have chosen finalists based on their favorite for each partisan office, without regard to party preference. You will note that candidates describe their party preference, but this doesn't mean that the party endorses or identifies with the candidate. The Top 2 Primary was not a nominating process, but rather a way for voters to winnow the field for each office to two finalists. In some cases, finalists may share the same party preference. Minor-party candidates were part of the primary process.

Now it's your opportunity to pick the winners!

As your chief elections official, I want to assure you that our elections process has seen dramatic improvement since 2004, when we had the closest race for governor in history, and unprecedented scrutiny. There have been 180 changes to state election law and 1,100 administrative rule changes, all designed to give you confidence in the accuracy and integrity of this process we all hold dear. The most striking improvement was creation of a statewide voter registration database that has greatly improved our ability to keep voter registration records current and accountable. Today, voter rolls are the cleanest they have ever been.

As a voter you now have more information than ever before. Visit us online at **www.vote.wa.gov** for a variety of resources. Click on **MyVote** to get customized voting information. Study this **Voters' Pamphlet** and check out the **Video Voters' Guide** and our new "I Will Vote" feature.

Thanks for participating!

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Reed".

SAM REED
Secretary of State